

THANK YOU DIRECTOR LIU! GOOD MORNING EVERYONE!

LET ME BEGIN BY THANKING HUD SECRETARY JULIAN CASTRO FOR BEING WITH US ON THIS SPECIAL MORNING. IT'S A PLEASURE TO BE HERE FOR SUCH AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT.

BACK WHEN THE SECRETARY WAS MAYOR OF SAN ANTONIO, WE HAD TWO CONSECUTIVE BASKETBALL SEASONS WHEN THE HEAT AND SPURS FACED OFF FOR THE NBA TITLE.

WELCOME TO MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AGAIN, SECRETARY AND THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING THIS SITE TO SHARE WITH US THE NEW CHANGES COMING TO THE SECTION 3 PROGRAM.

ALSO HERE, CITY OF MIAMI MAYOR, TOMAS REGALADO, THANKS FOR JOINING US!

DEAR FRIENDS...

SINCE 1968 SECTION 3 OF THE HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT ACT HAS HELPED FOSTER LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT THROUGH HUD-FUNDED JOBS AND CONTRACTS MAINLY DIRECTED

TO LOCAL LOW-INCOME RESIDENTS AND THE BUSINESSES THAT EMPLOY THEM.

HERE IN MIAMI-DADE WE ARE COMMITTED TO JOB CREATION. AS A MATTER OF FACT WE ARE PROUD TO SAY THAT THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE HERE HAS CONTINUED TO FALL. WHEN I FIRST TOOK OFFICE OUR COUNTY HAD AN 11.6 PERCENT UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, THIS WEEK IT IS AT 6.1 PERCENT.

MY ADMINISTRATION AND I ARE CONSTANTLY LOOKING FOR WAYS TO CONNECT JOB SEEKERS WITH THOSE EMPLOYERS THAT NEED WORKERS.

LAST DECEMBER, WE LAUNCHED THE EMPLOY MIAMI-DADE PROGRAM WITH THE COLLABORATION OF SEVERAL STATE AND LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS TO PROVIDE THE TOOLS AND NECESSARY SKILLS TO ELIGIBLE RESIDENTS IN NEED OF EMPLOYMENT.

IN FACT THIS MORNING ANOTHER CLASS IS GRADUATING AND WILL BE WORK-READY AFTER RECEIVING THEIR CERTIFICATION.

ALSO THIS YEAR, MY ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCED EFFORTS TO REDEVELOP LIBERTY SQUARE - A NEW DEAL ERA PUBLIC HOUSING

COMMUNITY THAT IS IN NEED OF A MAJOR REDEVELOPMENT.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH OUR FEDERAL PARTNERS IN THIS UNPRECEDENTED EFFORT.

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO OUR COMMUNITY BECAUSE HUNDREDS OF REGISTERED BUSINESSES AND THOUSANDS OF RESIDENTS WILL BENEFIT FROM THE SECTION 3 CHANGES THAT WILL BE IMPLEMENTED.

HISTORY HAS SHOWN THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF SECTION 3:

SINCE 2009 MORE THAN \$5 BILLION IN HUD-FUNDED CONTRACTS HAVE BEEN DIRECTED TO SECTION 3 BUSINESSES AND NEARLY 170,000 JOBS HAVE BEEN CREATED BY HUD FOR ELIGIBLE LOW-INCOME WORKERS THROUGH THIS PROGRAM.

SECRETARY CASTRO, ON BEHALF OF OUR 2.6 MILLION RESIDENTS THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO OUR PUBLIC-HOUSING RESIDENTS AND WORKERS.

I ENTHUSIASTICALLY LOOK FORWARD TO OUR COLLABORATION ON THIS HISTORIC AND GAME-CHANGING PROJECT FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY!

GOD BLESS YOU AND MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS MIAMI-DADE COUNTY!

